(ii) Foreign collaboration approvals are issued with an initial validity period of two years.

(iii) Engagement of foreign technicians will henceforth be approved directly by the Reserve Bank of India within specified limits and no reference to the administrative Ministry is necessary. Indian firms holding blanket exchange permits are allowed to utilise exchange out of their blanket permit in meeting expenditure in foreign exchange for engagement of foreign technicians.

(iv) A foreign company can submit an application in their own name for grant of industrial licence, foreign collaboration or other approvals In case it is decided to approve the application as per normal procedures, an 'in principle' approval is accorded to the applicant foreign company, who can then take necessary action to incorporate a company in India to implement the project.

(v) Royalty can also be paid to products manufactured by sub-contractors in on-going collaborations with overseas parties subject to condition that the product is manufactured according to the designs/engineering know-how of the overseas collaborator.

(vi) Foreign Investment Board has been empowered to clear proposals involving foreign investment even beyond 26 per cent, but upto 40 per cent in existing companies subject to a monetary limit of Rs. 10 crores.

(vii) The scope and coverage of the Technology Development Fund has been widened.

(viii) Approvals for foreign equity investment and technology transfers are given more freely when they are within the policy parameters and the technology under import is in national interest.

Production of Khadi

*231. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of Khadi in the country during the last three years alongwith its total values;

(b) whether its production has increased during the period, yearwise; and

(c) what are the details of the steps taken by Government to increase production of Khadi?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) The production of Khadi, both in terms of quantity and value has been increasing over the years. The details of production of Khadi for the last three years are as follows:—

Year	Production of Khadi	
	Qntv. (in Million sq. meters)	Value Rs. in Crores)
1985-86 . .	104.94	195.01
1986-87. . .	113.13	218.06
1987-88. . .	115.72	227.51

The following steps are being taken to increase the production of Khadi in the country:—

1. KVIC is making concerted efforts to introduce improved technology both in spinning and weaving.

2. Emphasis is being laid on the provision of spinning facilities so as to ensure continuous supply of silvers of good quality and adoption of improved spinning equipment.

3. KVIC has set up another sliver manufacturing plant at Trichur besides the one already functioning at Rai Bareli for supply of readymade slivers to the spinners.

4. KVIC is making efforts to improve the processing of Khadi so as to make it more attractive to the consumer.

5. Greater emphasis is being laid on creation of infrastructural facilities such as construction of godowns, worksheds, opening of sales outlets and renovation of bhandars.

6. Experiments to improve the quality of yarn for making different types of fabrics under cotton khadi have been successfully completed.

7. Hand-operated pre-processing equipment and six-spindle charkha designed to spin all varieties of silk wastes and Endi has been developed.

8. Studies have been conducted on the process of cold reeling.

9. Trials have been undertaken for evolving improved reeling charkhas and reeling machines with flexibility of running on electric power as well as on manual operation.

10. Cold bleaching process has been developed to make khadi less expensive and it has been modified as per suitability for khadi processing units.

Erratic Supply of Cooking Gas in North-Western parts of the Country

*232. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH: HANSPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the cooking gas supply in North-Western parts of the country is erratic and the consumers have to wait for months together to get LPG refills;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Government to bring normalcy in the supply of cooking gas refills; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) A backlog in supply of LPG refills had developed during recent months in certain areas in the North-west region of the country owing to breakdown of road traffic on account of heavy rains and floods leading to disruption of product movement. With the measures already initiated, the situation has since considerably improved. The supply position is being closely monitored by the oil industry with a view to ensuring regular LPG supplies to consumers in this region.

पिछड़े क्षेत्रों के औद्योगिक विकास के लिये राज्यों में विकास खण्डों का चयन

*233. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव :** क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश के पिछड़े क्षेत्रों में औद्योगिक विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए 12 राज्यों के 44 जिलों में 51 विकास खण्डों का चयन अब तक किया जा चुका है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश में आजमगढ़ में, जो सबसे अधिक पिछड़ा क्षेत्र है, औद्योगिक विकास के लिये कोई विकास खण्ड चुना गया है ; यदि हां, तो उस विकास खण्ड का नाम क्या है और इस मामले में आगे की जाने वाली कार्यवाही का ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) यदि उपरोक्त भाग (ख) का उत्तर "ना" हो, तो इसके क्या कारण है ; और

(घ) कब तक आजमगढ़ में कम से कम एक विकास खण्ड को औद्योगिक विकास के लिये चुन लिये जाने की आशा है ?